

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a first aspect, the invention provides expression vectors comprising: (a) a first RNA polymerase III promoter operably associated with a first RNA polymerase III termination signal and (b) a second RNA polymerase III promoter operably associated with a second RNA polymerase III termination signal, wherein the first and second RNA polymerase III promoters are oriented to promote bidirectional transcription of an insert disposed between the first and the second RNA polymerase III termination signals. In other aspects, the invention provide methods for using these expression vectors for inhibiting expression of target genes, for determining the effect of siRNAs on biological processes, and for identifying siRNAs that affect biological processes.